

Charles William Le Gendre Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

2003

Revised 2010 April

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009095>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78029850>

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Revised by Patrick Kerwin with the assistance of Joseph D. Jackson

Collection Summary

Title: Charles William Le Gendre Papers

Span Dates: 1866-1893

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1866-1875 and 1891-1892)

ID No.: MSS29850

Creator: Le Gendre, Charles William, 1830-1899

Extent: 1,800 items ; 14 containers plus 2 oversize ; 6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, French, and several Asian languages

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Army officer and diplomat. Correspondence, memoranda, dispatches, reports, Chinese and Japanese documents, and other papers relating chiefly to Le Gendre's service as American consul at Amoy, China, 1866-1872; as advisor in the Japanese government and in a diplomatic post representing Japan in Taiwan, 1872-1875; and as advisor in the Korean government, 1890-1899. Includes Le Gendre's journal, with drawings and photographs, in which he recounts his travels among aborigines in Taiwan.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Le Gendre, Charles William, 1830-1899.

Subjects

Civilization, Oriental.

Consuls--China--Xiamen Shi.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--China.

Diplomatic and consular service, Japanese--Taiwan.

Diplomatic and consular service, Japanese.

Ethnology.

Taiwan aborigines.

World history.

Places

Asia--History.

East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.

Japan--Foreign relations--1868-1912.

Japan--Foreign relations--Taiwan.

Korea--Commerce.

Taiwan--Description and travel.

Taiwan--Foreign relations--Japan.

Taiwan--Foreign relations.

United States--Foreign relations--1865-1898.

United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.

Occupations

Army officers.

Diplomats.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Charles William Le Gendre, army officer and diplomat, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1933 by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. William Le Gendre.

Processing History

The Le Gendre Papers were processed in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles William Le Gendre is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles William Le Gendre are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles William Le Gendre Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1830, Aug. 26	Born, Ouillins, France
1854	Married Clara Victoria Mulock Emigrated to the United States
1861-1864	Served in United States Army
1866-1872	American Consul, Amoy, China
1872-1875	Japanese counselor to China and foreign advisor to Japan
1890-1899	Vice-president of the Korean Home Office and advisor to the Household Department of the king of Korea
1899, Sept. 1	Died, Seoul, Korea

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles William Le Gendre (1830-1899) span the years 1866-1893 but are concentrated in two periods, 1866-1875 and 1891-1892. The collection contains a limited amount of material on Le Gendre's personal life and focuses chiefly on his diplomatic career in the American foreign service and in the Japanese and Korean governments. It is composed primarily of correspondence, memoranda, dispatches, reports, Chinese and Japanese documents, a travel journal, and a draft of a multivolume book by an unknown author.

Le Gendre's career as United States consul at Amoy, China, and advisor in the Japanese foreign service is the central theme of the general correspondence for the years 1866-1875. His efforts to promote American interests in the Far East as well as his observations on Asian civilizations are recurring topics in his correspondence with American superiors, memoranda, reports, and dispatches. Le Gendre was particularly interested in establishing peaceful relations with Taiwan, formerly known as Formosa, and his experience with the Taiwanese prompted Japanese authorities to tender him a diplomatic position in 1872. Le Gendre's activities on behalf of the Japanese government, particularly his conflict with American officials in China, is reflected in the correspondence for the years 1873-1875.

Correspondence for the years 1891-1892 is devoted to Le Gendre's service in Korea and consists primarily of dispatches, memoranda, and reports. Much of the material deals with issues concerning Korean trade relations.

The collection contains Le Gendre's description of his travel among the aborigines of Formosa in 1874 and a multivolume work by an unknown author entitled *Les Courants Humains, ou la Circulation du Sang de l'homme et de la Civilisation a la Surface de la Terre*. The book is an extensive study of the development of various civilizations, the spread of races, and Asian history.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Asian language documents, undated (7 folders)
BOX 1	Chronological file
BOX 1	1866-1869 (3 folders)
BOX 2	1870-1873 (12 folders)
BOX 2	1874
BOX 2	Jan.-Apr. (5 folders)
BOX 3	May-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 3	1875-1877, 1883-1888 (7 folders)
BOX 4	1891-1893, undated (9 folders)
BOX 4	Fragments, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	(7 folders)
BOX 5	<i>Les Courants Humains, ou la Circulation du sang de l'homme et de la civilisation a la surface de la terre</i> , by an unknown author; in French and English (2 vols.)
BOX 6	(4 vols.)
BOX 7	(1 vol.)
BOX 8	(4 vols.)
BOX 9	(3 vols.)
10	(4 vols.)
BOX 11	(8 vols.)
BOX 12	(3 vols.)
BOX 13	(4 vols.)
BOX 14	(2 vols.)
BOX 14	"Notes of Travel in Formosa," undated <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	"Notes of Travel in Formosa," undated (Container 14) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 2	(2 vols.)